

SM  
MAY - 3 1994

GREAT LAKES LEADERSHIP NETWORK "EVENT" AGENDA DESIGN

Draft: 4/13/94 proposal

Basis of Meeting Design: The "Event" should let the Network happen.

Purpose:

The purpose of the "Event" is to enable participants to experience and become more aware of their shared ecological values. Participants need to be able to enhance themselves as individuals; and to understand how the issues they are interested in are linked to other local, state or region, national and international issues.

think there needs to be more focus; other purpose (such as future direction)

The meeting design considers the basic differences in the learning and participatory styles of individuals. Every individual comes with their area of knowledge and desire for more information in other areas.

Target Audience:

The target audience are residents of the Great Lakes, primarily those persons that work on community based issues. They will be multi-dimensional in their cultural interests and environmental orientation. The event should interest an audience which includes but is not limited to: people of color, non-professional and professional environmentalists, students, various urban and rural community activists, labor, researchers, etc.

women?

"Event" design:

The categories of ideas that of the "Event" should cover was outlined by the participants of the March 22-23 meeting. The following four ideas were outlined: leadership, skills, background information, and the organization of the meeting.

To cover all of these ideas at the "Event" the following events are occurring (as outlined in the attached "Proposed Agenda"):

Free Time: allows individuals to recharge anyway they choose or travel time for others;

Lunch speaker: to bring everyone together, get them excited and set the tone for the gathering;

Small Group Exercise: to quickly get people acquainted and working together. They will have to use their resource gathering and cooperation

could name time?

*Theatre group  
attend to what's  
going on through*

2 skills to create a presentation for Saturday night;

*this would have  
to be carefully worked  
out (made in advance)*

Caucuses: people can gather at the beginning of the meeting and the end to discuss strategies on an issue;

*middle*

Breakfast Clubs: participants are preassigned to join a particular group over breakfast both mornings. This facilitates meeting new people and everyone feels they "belong." Each group has one or two advisers to welcome participants, answers questions, guide individuals to sources of information;

*good*

Opening Ceremony: to appreciate the meeting site and our gathering;

*spiritual  
dimension?*

Plenary: this will let everyone know what to expect in what each person "schedules" for themselves to experience during the afternoon session;

Briefing: a 20 - 30 minute presentation on the information on an issue. It should cover the background and the current status of the issue and not get into developing strategies. This could be a "town hall" format;

*too long*

Training: a gathering in a break-out room to develop a skill;

Horror Story: a sharing of a personal experience to highlight "what is going wrong and why we need to change things;"

*could  
be part  
of  
briefing*

Success Story: a sharing of examples of how individuals have been able to make a difference;

*CASES  
combine*

Great Lakes Bazaar: time for individuals to design their own schedule to experience information gathering and sharing in a fun, productive and connective way;

Issues Briefings: a lecture or panel discussion format at a single location. Approximately 20 minute presentations with 10 minute Q & A.

*how is  
this  
different  
from  
other  
briefing?*

Issues to be presented include: consumer action; breast cancer and other health effects of toxins; pesticides and other organochlorines; incineration; GATT, NAFTA and labor; transportation; nuclear and alternative power; water (CWA) and air (CAA), forestry and pulp and paper; mining. They will be organized and coordinated that one presentation states connections to the other issues and this will be enhanced through a visual aid;

*need to  
focus  
on  
few*

Market Place of Information: has a festive feeling and is held in a large decorated area. The arrangement of the information tables is circular. Information is laid-out in an issue basis and it flows from one related issue to another. Individuals can have one to one conversations about the

*good*

*Education  
Economic  
Recreation*

information. In the center of the area activities such as a quilting area <sup>good</sup> is continuously going on. Anyone can participate at their a time of their own choosing;

Training: these are scheduled in the break-out rooms at various times. They are skills training and actualization presentations;

"Great Lakes Show:" is the entertainment resulting from the small group <sup>third</sup> <sup>be a</sup> <sup>vision</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>last</sup> <sup>year's</sup> <sup>GLU</sup> <sup>from</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>same</sup> <sup>group</sup> exercises from Friday afternoon;

Closing & Ceremony: to reflect positively on the shared experience and future of the *Network*. <sup>spiritual reflection</sup> other design details:

-everyone registers: this is a leveling process and leads to the directory's development;

-"Barter" system developed through the use of "shell certificates;"

Results:

1) The meeting should empower everyone to realize that every individual is knowledgeable in at least one fundamental level, no matter what their level of technical expertise, is "knowledgeable." Some people do not recognize that they have some area in which "knowledgeable" and that at the core level they are a "local expert" about their community. Their power comes from recognizing their own expertise. They must recognize this of themselves in order to be recognized by others in their community. From that foundation they can affect and influence their community towards more sustainable decisions and policies.

2) Everyone will be the *Network Event* and through their registration will be the formulation of *Network*.

# PROPOSED AGENDA

day & time	activity	purpose of activity
<u>Thursday, September 8</u>		
	Registration begins	
<u>Friday, September 9</u>		
morning	registration cont. & free time	allows time to recharge, enjoy meeting site, and have fun setting up meeting site
11a	Registration	allows time to recharge, enjoy meeting site, and have fun setting up meeting site
noon	lunch w\ speaker	a dynamic speaker to set the tone of the meeting
afternoon	small group exercise: plan presentation for sat. night	informal; participants work together, have fun and realize other working styles
1:00 - 2:30		
3:00 - 5:00	caucuses	discussion of strategies and develop positions
evening	dinner - no speaker conversational time	
6:00		
7:30	entertainment provided by ???	

*Setup Boyaan*

*NO*

*Some-thing needs to happen here if this is the start (could be loose)*

*connected?*

*- do these get presented?  
- next day?*

*I don't see a place where links are clearly made, discussed and an agenda set for the future*

Saturday, September 10

morning

7:00 - 8:30

Breakfast Clubs *like the*

8:45 - 9:15

Opening Ceremony

9:00 - 10:15  
break

Plenary: Presentation of Each Model; a briefing, training, horror story, success story

10:30 - 11:45

noon

Lunch (no speaker)

afternoon

1:00 - 5:00

Great Lakes Bazaar (held simultaneously)  
-Issue Briefings  
-Market Place of Information  
-Training

evening

6:00

Dinner

7:00 - ???

"Great Lakes Show"

Sunday, September 11

morning

7:30 - 8:45

Breakfast clubs

9:00 - 10:30

Caucuses - new and continuing

10:30 - 10:45

break

10:45 - 11:45

Closing & Ceremony

noon

Lunch

*Id we can't  
do but talk*

**DRAFT PROPOSAL 4/15/94**

by Program Sub-Committee members Rebecca Shriner and Beatrice Briggs with help from Liane Casten

**Introduction**

Brimming with input from the planning meetings held in February (Ypsilanti, MI) and March (Milwaukee, WI) and a steering committee conference call on April 6, we met on April 7 and hatched the following plan for your consideration. Our primary intuition is that the September event should not follow a standard conference format, which seems too "old skin" to do justice to the innovative vision developed in the planning process. Our recommendation is, therefore, that the September event be the launching of the network itself, rather than a discussion of the possibility of launching a network. In sum: let's not just talk about it - let's do it!

*- where is this piece in other docs?*

**Target Audience**

The primary target is women residents of the Great Lakes, particularly those working on- or interested in working on- community-based issues such as health, economics, open space, neighborhood revitalization, transportation, housing, education, agriculture and governance. We want to attract women of all ages and backgrounds, including (but not limited to) students, artists, scientists, elected officials, health care providers, homemakers, city dwellers, rural residents, people of color, media people, retirees, and non-professional and professional environmentalists. The common denominator linking these women of vastly different experience is a willingness to work together, share their gifts, and listen to the land in order to craft a future for the Great Lakes that is both ecologically sustainable and socially just. Men who share these values are also welcome.

**Guiding principle/Title**

Based on the fundamental assumptions that (1) if women were in charge of our societal agenda, things would be done differently (2) the changes must arise from and be deeply rooted in local communities, and (3) people are experts (or can readily become experts) about the places they live, we chose the following as the title for the first Network gathering:

*? this is shaky  
+ self*

*"Women Set the Agenda for the Great Lakes..."*  
**A Gathering of Local Experts  
To Celebrate the Creation of the  
Great Lakes Leadership Network  
(location TBA)  
September 9-11, 1994**  
*9-11*

*(maybe delete "f")*

**Program Design**

We propose a participatory, multi-dimensional event that will take into consideration the varied learning styles, levels of experience, time availability, and degree of "issue burn-out" of the participants. We suggest a balance of left- and right-brain activities and small and large group interaction. The structure and content of the program should encourage participants to share what they know and seek the help that they need from the others present. Our primary intention is to create a program that will make the network to a living reality on the second weekend in September and in the months and years to follow.

**Sunday AM**

After breakfast, we will meet in caucuses, focused either on issues or on micro-regions within the Great Lakes watershed and/or use this time to set up our alternative currency system (see "Post-Gathering Networking" below). Then we will reconvene as a large group for a final plenary and closing ceremony, followed by lunch, clean-up and departure.

*what about the network future here throughout the session?*

**Additional Network Support Systems**

**Breakfast clubs.** Each participant will be assigned to a group that will meet over breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. This will encourage meeting new people and helping newcomers feel that they "belong." Each group will have one or two advisors to welcome participants, answer questions and guide individuals to sources of information they are seeking. Like everything else in the program, these gatherings are optional, so those who sleep late will not have to feel guilty if they miss them.

*good*

**Bazaar Guidance Counseling.** A place to go for advice, directions or other help regarding the Saturday afternoon session.

**Handouts, signage, pre-conference material** are all important elements in helping participants get the most out of this rich, but potentially overwhelming experience.

**INSERT THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE HERE**

**Post-Gathering Networking**

**Database and Directory.** A database of "local experts" will be set up and a network directory published after the September gathering. The format and complexity of this information requires more study, but our suggestion is that it be as comprehensive - and capable of continuous updating - as possible.

**Great Lakes Currency.** To encourage skill sharing and communication between participants after the September gathering, to help develop an alternative Great lakes consciousness, to acknowledge the value of our individual expertise, and to remove some of the economic barriers to getting the training and information we need, we propose that the Great Lakes Network create its own currency or LETS (local economic trading system). Called "clamshells" or "acorns" or something similar (named after an indigenous store of value), this currency would take the form of printed certificates, distributed in equal amounts to every Network participant. These certificates could then be redeemed for goods or services from other Network members - or anyone else who will accept them. For example, let's say each "clamshell" was worth \$10 US and each participant was issued abx, worth \$60 US. A person could use this currency to pay all or part of the cost of workshops, trainings, etc offered by others. Like dollars, the currency could be hoarded, given away or pooled. The possibilities are endless. It may be that the focus of the Sunday morning program will be explaining this system and getting it started.

*6 weeks then but it might come later?*

**Some Thoughts on Registration**

To foster an egalitarian spirit and reinforce our premise that everyone has something to share and a lot to learn, we suggest that none of the speakers or resource people be paid for their contributions. Everyone who participates will be expected to register. By the same token,

*or could be paid in clamshells*

*700  
soon*

anyone who needs financial assistance will receive it. In other words, we will not pay anyone to participate, but we will not turn anyone away for lack of funds.

Everyone who registers for this gathering will automatically become a member of the Network. The registration form should allow those who cannot attend the September event to join the Network - and receive the directory, clamshells, etc - for a fee.

#### Some Thoughts on Ritual and Ceremony

While the whole weekend will be a kind of mega-ritual, in the sense that we will be creating sacred space, building energy and then disbanding, we propose actual ceremonial circles on Saturday and Sunday. The opening Saturday ritual could include a respectful acknowledgment of the ancestors and totems of the gathering site (i.e., dominant forms of vegetation, critter, bodies of water, landforms, native people, current struggles) and a request that those forces be present in our gathering and help us do our work. We could also ask participants to bring a small container of water from their local stream, river, lake, etc. and ceremonially pour all those together to form "the waters of the Great Lakes." Some of this water could be poured on the ground as an offering to the local spirits of place, while the rest would be kept in a ceremonial bowl. At the end of the weekend, people could take a small amount of the mingled waters home with them and the rest held over for use at future network gatherings.

great!

Either Saturday or Sunday would be good time to form a human map of the Great Lakes to strengthen our identification with the sweetwater seas and to get to know other participants who come from our area.

great!

At Sunday's closing circle we might collectively initiate ourselves as members of the Network, honoring the elders among us (ie, those who have been working on these issues the longest) and empowering everyone to go forth to carry on the work.

!!

#### Where we Need Help

We need feedback, suggestions and hands-on help in the following areas:

- 1) The overall proposal. Is it clear? Does it incorporate the ideas and concerns expressed in the planning meetings? What have we missed? What other ideas does it spark in you?
- 2) Specific suggestions for briefings and trainings - both topics and presenters.
- 3) Suggestions for keynote speaker for Friday lunch.
- 4) Help planning the database/directory.
- 5) Help developing the alternative currency idea.
- 6) Additional ideas regarding the ceremonial circles.

needs work

Please send responses to Rebecca Shriner (phone/FAX) or Beatrice Briggs (phone: 312.929.5565 Fax 312.929.5521) by DATE???



**WARNING**

To do justice to the multi-dimensional, non-linear, holistic design of the program, the description which follows begins with Saturday afternoon, then moves on to Saturday morning, then Friday, then Saturday night, ending with Sunday. If the very idea of having the program explained in this way makes you crazy, we suggest you go first to the proposed timetable, found on page \*\*\* before reading this. Trust us on this one!

*+ these ideas are good but w/ need a lot of management observation*

**Great Lakes Bazaar**

The core of the weekend program is a marketplace of information, ideas, creativity and support that will take place all Saturday afternoon. The Bazaar will take place in a large hall which will have at its center a quilting area. (It was agreed at the February meeting that participants would be invited to work on a quilt during the weekend, the material for which will be provided by Les Botts.) Banners celebrating the global commons (earth, air, fire, water) and the five Great Lakes - or other colorful, unifying themes - will fly overhead.

*cell?*

**Information booths**

From this hub, information booths will be laid out in a circle (or perhaps concentric circles, depending on the space). The booths will be identified by issue or region, not organization (e.g., water, air, ecological restoration, human health, computers, songwriting, North Woods, urban ecology, sustainable agriculture, community gardens - or whatever participants feel is relevant). Participants will be asked to take turns staffing the booth (or booths) at which they have some expertise for an hour or two on Saturday - serving as a resource for others. Organizations would be encouraged to distribute their information around the hall at whatever table or tables make sense. This will encourage seeing the links between the various causes and perspectives.

*good*

**Issues Briefings**

Thirty-minute talks or panel discussions will be scheduled all Saturday afternoon either at one location or in a variety of breakout rooms - depending on the space and the number of presentations planned. The format will be a 20-minute presentation followed by 10-minute Q&A. The offerings will range from "entry level" talks about broad topics to more specific, detailed discussions which assume some background in the subject. The level at which the discussion will be pitched and the background of the speaker will be clearly indicated in the program materials. In some instances an entry level briefing may immediately precede a more in-depth talk on the same topic to help "beginners" get up to speed. Possible topics include: consumer action, breast cancer and other health effects of toxins, pesticides and other organochlorines, incineration, GATT, NAFTA and labor, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, forestry, pulp and paper, mining, nuclear waste. Presenters will be encouraged to articulate the links between their issue and others being discussed.

*[Handwritten mark]*

**Trainings**

Specific skills will be taught at designated times and locations during the afternoon. Depending on the level of teaching and the complexity of the subject, these trainings could last anywhere from 30 minutes to all afternoon. Again the level of the presentation and background of the presenter(s) will be clearly indicated in the program materials. Possible trainings might include: when and how to incorporate as a not-for-profit organization, effective meeting planning, choosing a computer, using computer networks, consensus decision-making, lobbying elected officials, using video to tell your story, how to tell pseudo-science from real science, creating eco-rituals, eco-defense, etc.

*could these be attached to issues?*

*build on base theme*

*public speaking*

*getting - writing week about 2 pages*

**Horror Stories**

Because many people have stories to tell of the sufferings they or their communities have endured, a special place will be set aside for this purpose. Participants will be asked to volunteer to sit in this area for part of the afternoon, to practice listening to things none of us want to hear and to offer support to the horror-story-tellers. Art materials will be available to chronicle these stories and people's compassionate responses.

? n/sure about this

**Success Stories**

An area to share good news, successes large or small, will be set up, along similar lines as the horror story area.

(how about other format - wrong/well?)

**Saturday AM**

To help participants understand the format for Saturday afternoon, a sample of the key elements in the Bazaar will be presented to the whole group on Saturday morning. After an opening ceremony, we will have a plenary session in which one briefing will be given, one skill taught, one horror story and one success story told. This will give us all a shared referent, model behavior for presenters, and help people make appropriate choices for themselves during the afternoon.

?

Key point: Participants will design their own programs on Saturday afternoon. They could spend the entire time in a 3-hour training session, go to a variety of briefings and trainings, wander around the booths, spend the whole afternoon quilting, take a nature walk (led by someone or self-guided) or.... There will be no one "right" way to do the Bazaar. For those who find the choices too overwhelming, we will have "guidance counselors" on hand. (See "Additional Network Support Systems" below.)

fewer choices?  
yes

**Friday**

Participants who arrive on Friday (or earlier) will be invited to help set up the main hall for the Bazaar. This sort of hands-on, creative activity will help people get acquainted, provide an important role for those with artistic and/or carpentry skills, make the conference space our own, and provide a refreshing change of pace for those who spend their lives in meetings. Lunch on Friday will feature a keynote speaker who will discourse on the subject, "If Women Set the Agenda for the Great Lakes...." After lunch, participants will be divided into small groups to create skits, songs or other creative presentations on that same theme, to be shared with the whole group on Saturday night. For policy junkies who just can't get enough, time for caucusing around specific issues will also be set aside on Friday afternoon. After dinner on Friday, we will have drumming and dancing - or some other form of non-verbal, relatively unstructured activity - to get the kinks out and warm up for the next day. (Also some folks may still be working on their skits or setting up the Bazaar, and others will be just arriving during this time.)

Don't think this is a walk

**Saturday evening**

After dinner, everyone will be invited to attend the Great Lakes Show, a presentation of the skits, etc. planned on Friday, as well as individual offerings of songs, poetry, dance, story or other cultural expressions. The one criterion is that the material have some relevance to the Great Lakes, our home communities and/or the issues we face. Dancing and socializing to follow.